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ABSTRACT

This syllabus outlines a one semester course intended to provide a comprehensive study of the Soviet Union today, and the relationship that Russian has with the United States and the rest of the world. Content covers Russia's history beginning with the fall of the Romanovs with emphasis on the revolutionary movement in Russia. The guide presents a brief rationale of a comparative study approach to history instruction, a list of objectives, and a description of teaching methodology. Suggested is a combination of lecture and student discussion, utilizing individual research, student panels, guest speakers, and class projects. A list of curriculum materials, including texts, supplemental texts, and audiovisual aids, is given. The course outline is introduced by a brief discussion of the Provisional Government followed by a chronological outline of significant events. Major topics are: 1) February Revolution; 2) Provisional Government; 3) Bolshevik Revolution; 4) War, Communism; 5) Reconstruction; 6) Post War Period; and, 7) Coexistence. In addition, these themes for student analysis are suggested: 1) Democracy and Communism As a Way of Life; 2) Land and the People of the Soviet Union; 3) The Importance of Russia's Past in the Communist State; 4) Soviet Personalities and Policies; 5) Development of the Soviet Economy; 6) Role of the Artist in the Soviet Union; 7) International Policies of the Soviet Union; and, 8) West's Response to Communism. A related document is: SO 001 197. (Author/JSB)

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CHINESE-RUSSIAN STUDY CENTER
Toledo Public Schools
Toledo, Ohio

Syllabus for use in Soviet Russian History
as prepared by Carol Husum, 1969-1970

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Frank Dick, Superintendent of Schools
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SOVIET HISTORY

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive study of the Soviet Union today, and the relationship that Russia has with the United States and the rest of the world. By using a comparative approach, it is hoped that the student will have a better understanding of the lives of the people of the Soviet Union and a better comprehension of the influences at work in our own lives. As the present state of the world is based in large part upon what has gone before, an attempt is made to establish the continuity of Russian history and to relate conditions in Russia's past with the situation of Russia today. Although this one semester course begins with the fall of the Romanovs and the beginnings of a new republic under the Provisional Government, emphasis is given to the revolutionary movement in Russia.

OBJECTIVES

The basic student objectives for this course are:

1. To have an understanding of life in the Soviet Union
2. To appreciate and understand cultural dofferemces
3. To understand that which is "Russian" and that which is "Communist" in nature
4. To develop ability to deal effectively with propaganda
5. To understand the political, economic, and social conditions in the United States in order to compare these with conditions in Russia.
6. To understand the reasons for the Communist Revolution, especially in the lifht of the lack of a democratic tradition in Russia
7. To understand the difference between Communism in theory and in practice
8. To understand the successes and failures of the Communist system
9. To develop some insight into the personalities which shaped modern Russia
10. To understand Moscow's relationship with the satellite countries
11. To understand Moscow's relationship with the underdeveloped countries
12. To understand the nature of the Communist challenge to democracy and the means by which we might meet this challenge
13. To understand the role geography has in the development of Russia under Communism
14. To develop some understanding and appreciation for the art and literature of the Soviet period

METHODOLOGY

Lecture and student discussion are combined with individual research, student panels, guest speakers, and class projects in order to provide active student participation in the learning process. Audio-visual materials are used extensively and opportunity is given to study some of the representative literature of the period so that the student will have a better understanding of what the Soviet Union is really like.

MATERIALS

Texts:

1. AN INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE by Ivar Spector; D. Van Nostrand
2. TWO WAYS OF LIFE: THE COMMUNIST CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY by William Ebenstein; Holt, Rinehart and Winston
3. A STUDY OF THE U. S. S. R. AND COMMUNISM: AN HISTORICAL APPROACH by Alfred J. Rieber and Robert C. Nelson; G. P; Putnam's Sons
4. THE U. S. S. R. AND COMMUNISM: SOURCE READINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS edited by Alfred J. Rieber and Robert C. Nelson; Scott, Foresman and Company

Supplemental Texts:

1. RUSSIA: SELECTED READINGS edited by Hyman Kublin; Houghton Mifflin

Audio-Visual Materials

Films - 16 mm. - sound

1. RED MYTH - THE MYTH EXPLODED - #13; BW, 33 min.
2. THE RISE OF SOVIET POWER - Part I; McGraw-Hill, BW, 27 min.
3. THE RISE OF SOVIET POWER - Part II; McGraw-Hill, BW, 27 min.
4. PEOPLES OF THE SOVIET UNION; International Film Foundation, BW, 26 min.
5. RELIGION IN RUSSIA; International Film Foundation, color, 20 min.
6. LEISURE TIME: U.S.S.R.; International Film Foundation, color, 13 min.
7. THE RUSSIAN CONSUMER; International Film Foundation, color, 15 min.
8. THE RUSSIAN PEASANT (Russian Agriculture); International Film Foundation, color, 20 min.
9. THE RED MYTH #1 - MARXISM AND THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO; NET Film Service, BW
10. THE RED MYTH #8 - THE STALIN ERA: Part I; NET Film Service, BW
11. THE RED MYTH #9 - THE STALIN ERA: Part II; NET Film Service, BW

12. KREMLIN - Part I; McGraw-Hill, color, 54 min. (both parts)

13. KREMLIN - Part II; McGraw-Hill, color, 54 min. (both parts)

Filmstrips

1. COMMUNISM: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT AND WHY; McGraw-Hill, color
    a. Why study Communism?
    b. What Communism is
    c. History of Communism from Marx to Lenin
    d. History of Communism from Stalin to Khrushchev
    e. Communism as practiced in the U.S.S.R.
    f. Communist expansion in Europe
    g. Communist expansion in Asia
    h. Meeting the challenge of communism
2. LIVING IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY; SVE, color
    a. Housing and home life in the Soviet Union
    b. Schools and Pioneer activities
    c. Agriculture
    d. Foods, markets, and stores
    e. Transportation and communication
    f. Four cities of the Soviet Union
    g. Natural resources
3. HISTORY OF RUSSIA; Common Ground Filmstrips, BW
    a. The foundations to 1700 - 36 frames
    b. The age of St. Petersburg, 1700-1856 - 34 frames
    c. The end of Tsarism, 1857-1917 - 33 frames

Sound Filmstrips

1. SOVIET UNION TODAY; Filmstrip House, color
    a. The country and its people, 44 frames
    b. Food and clothing, 48 frames
    c. Housing, 44 frames
    d. Transportation and communication, 37 frames

2. SOVIET UNION TODAY - SET II; Filmstrip House, color
   a. Soviet society and mass culture, 49 frames
   b. The urban and rural proletariat, 66 frames
   c. Education, 58 frames
   d. The pioneer organization, 43 frames
3. THE RISE OF COMMUNISM; Guidance Associates, color, set of 2
4. THE SOVIET UNION TODAY: ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR WAY OF LIFE; Guidance Associates, set of 2, color
5. RUSSIA: 50 YEARS OF REVOLUTION; The New York Times, BW, 72 frames
6. RUSSIA AND COMMUNISM; Filmstrip House, color
   a. History to 1917
   b. Since 1917
   c. Government and economy
   d. Religion and the arts

Overhead Transparencies

1. PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY: THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM; Popular Science Publishing Company, set of 10
2. WORLD GEOGRAPHY SERIES - RUSSIA; General Aniline, set of 2
3. DISCOVER YOUR WORLD: SOVIET UNION; AEVAC Educational Publishers,
   a. Geography
   b. History
   c. Anthropology
   d. Sociology
   e. Economics
   f. Political Science

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Revolution of 1905 supposedly brought about a more liberal era in Russia. It was, however, a period in which the limited reforms of the government did not satisfy the intelligentsia or the people. Nicholas II did not really have an understanding of what his people needed or was unable to act to bring about reforms and listen to advisers (Rasputin among them) who although not always corrupt or incorrect, nevertheless hastened the fall of the monarchy. Reforms during this era took place in the areas of land reform initiated by P. Stolypin, industrial reform in which international trade in Russia increased, and agricultural improvements in which new areas of land were cultivated.

During this time Russia was moving toward war; however, as she bound herself to England and France in the Triple Entente, Russia's relations with Austria were particularly hostile. Turkey was also a threat to Russia's interest in the Balkans. When the Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian in Sarajevo, Russia came to the aid of her sister slavic nation and the war began which led to World War I.

Russia was not equipped to engage in large scale warfare and was headed towards disaster. The social and economic problems at home insurec eventual defeat. In 1916 the Brusilov Offensive succeeded in winning much territory and manpower, but the Russians lost more than they had gained including their best troops. Rasputin was murdered in December, 1916, by members of the nobility in an attempt to rid the court of his influence and to save the monarchy. However, the war had increased the internal dissension and the revolution was inevitable.

I. FEBRUARY REVOLUTION - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Miliukov, leader of the Kadets in the Duma denounced the regime in November, 1916.
2. Bread riots brok out in Petrograd in February, 1917. The president of the Fourth Duma tried to persuade the Tzar to appoint a representative

government to no avail.

3. After further disorders, the Petrograd Guards mutinied and joined the rioters on February 25. The Duma was dissolved on the same day.

4. The Tzar abdicated in favor of his brother who refused the throne. The Tzar and his family were arrested.

5. A Provisional Government was formed by a committee of the Duma representing the Progressive Bloc. Prince Lovov became prime minister; Miliukov, foreign minister; and Kerensky, minister of justice.

II. PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. The Provisional Government was based upon the middle class which was very small in Russia. Many including Trotsky felt that it was not really "revolutionary" because the middle class had influenced government and economic affairs in the past.

2. The Provisional Government had to rely on the Soviets (councils of soldiers and workmen). The government tried to carry out the war and, therefore, put off social and economic reforms to the extent of satisfying the people.

3. The Soviets contained many radical elements who paid lip service to the new government but worked to create an organization of their own.

4. Lenin and Trotsky demanded an end to the war and concentration on internal reform.

5. Miliukov resigned in May, but was replaced by a moderate.

6. A new offensive was begun in July, but eventually failed, causing more difficulties and the withdrawal of all Kadet ministers from the government.

7. The Bolsheviks organized riots and tried to overthrow the government but were stopped. Prince Lovov resigned and Kerensky, who was a Social Revolutionary, became Prime Minister.

8. Kerensky didn't have the support of the army or the Petrograd garrison or the soviets and so was unable to accomplish reforms. The Kornilov affair hastened the downfall of the government.

9. Although the Provisional Government did accomplish some reforms, it postponed the most important ones, pending the end of the war. This gave the Bolsheviks their opportunity to seize power.

III. BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. The Bolsheviks seized power because they understood the most significant problems facing the people--peace and land.
2. Using propaganda techniques they worked against the legitimate government in order to gain support among the people.
3. The Provisional Government had scheduled an election of the Constituent Assembly which was to be representative of the people. Bread riots and demonstrations brought about anarchistic conditions from which the Bolsheviks profited.
4. The Bolsheviks brought about the disintegration of the armed forces.
5. In October Lenin assumed control of the Petrograd garrison. On October 25 he seized the communication system and put an end to the Provisional Government.
6. The Bolsheviks took fast action and introduced radical changes to bring about peace and nationalization without regard for the consequences. The Constituent Assembly was dissolved.
7. The Soviets signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ending the war. Russia lost much land and resources by this agreement.
8. With peace in Russia, the Bolsheviks began to create a socialist state.
9. A constitution was adopted under the dictatorship of the proletariat. All political parties except the Communist were abolished.
10. The Bolsheviks brought about great changes in their first year in power.

IV. WAR COMMUNISM - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Conterrevolutionaries, or Whites, and foreign enemies threatened the Bolsheviks.
2. The Civil War and the foreign intervention led to destruction and to the undermining of the existing system of values. Famine added to the terror and destruction.
3. The foreigners came to Russia's aid after the famine in 1920 and helped relieve the suffering. Herbert Hoover was active in this regard.
4. The Bolshevik government remained intact but underwent some drastic changes after this period.

V. RECONSTRUCTION - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Lenin realized that it would be necessary to reinterpret Marxism to fit the needs of Russia during the twentieth century.
2. Lenin rebult Russia's position as an international force.
3. The Third International was established.
4. Lenin reorganized the economy along capitalistic lines under the New Economic Policy.
5. The Constitution was revised in 1922 bringing about the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
6. As a result of party friction, the secret police, Stalin, and Trotsky emerged as the main characters in this struggle for power.
7. By 1927 Trotsky had lost his power and influence and was forced into exile.
8. The Politburo by the end of the 1920's had most of the power of the government.
9. The First Five-Year Plan was drawn up by the Gosplan in 1928 to build Russia's industry emphasizing the need for defense.
10. The peasant was extremely dissatisfied. Changes introduced during the NEP did not really solve the problems. Kulaks were becoming wealthier and threatening the idea of a classless society. Collectivization

of land was enforced. There were two kinds of collectives--the kolkhoz and the state farm or sovkhoz. These programs brought about much suffering.

11. The Soviets sought to bring about a new type of man and undertook reforms in social areas and eliminated religion.
12. The Soviets concentrated upon improving education and abolishing illiteracy.
13. By 1928 there was less inequality, but working conditions were bad and living standards were low.
14. During the 1930's purges were conducted to remove all opposition.
15. Stalin introduced a socialist constitution in 1936 to reflect the changes which had taken place in Russia.
16. The Communist Party has vast powers in the new government although the Constitution does not specifically state this.
17. The government controls the finances of the country without the system of checks and balances in capitalistic countries.
18. During the thirties, second and third Five-Year Plans were carried out.
19. Stakhanovism was introduced to increase production.
20. Old values were reintroduced during the thirties--renewed emphasis on family.
21. Class and economic differences were increasing during the thirties.
22. Slave labor camps increased in Siberia.
23. Emphasis on education increased during the thirties--again attitudes reflected a return to older values as authority of the teacher returned, etc.
24. Religion became free from interference as the government thought that it could gain popular aupport against the Germans in this way.
25. Arts were made to fit the needs of a socialist state, and individualism was frowned upon.
26. After a period of isolation, Russia entered a period of international cooperation as a result of Hitler's rise to power.

27. Russia was increasing power in the Middle East during the thirties, but didn't have much success in the Far East.
28. U. S. recognized U. S. S. R. in 1933 in return for Russian promise to refraim from anti-U. S. propaganda.
29. Russia joined League of Nations in 1934.
30. Collective security was attempted among Western nations, but Russian propaganda made it unstable.
31. Fascism in Spain caused division among Western nations.
32. France and England submitted to Hitler's demands in Czechoslovakia destroying policy of collective security.
33. Russia and Germany signed a non-aggression pact in 1939.
34. Hitler invaded Russia in June, 1941.
35. Russia was wekk prepared as a result of the defensive attitude of the Bolsheviks upon coming to power.
36. Germans failed in their objectives.
37. Russia, in order to gain Western support, made many concessions including joining of United Nations.
38. Russia wanted expansion of their power after Germany's defeat. Concessions were made to Stalin at Tehran and Yalta.
39. The war with Germany brought about many changes in economy, social life, and religion.

VI. POST WAR PERIOD - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. Russia returned in many areas to prewar policies.
2. Russia set about to increase her power in areas where her troops were stationed.
3. The victory instilled national pride in the Russians.
4. Russia again sought to extend her influence through propaganda.
5. Russia made gains in the Far East.
6. Widespread opposition to communism developed in the West--NATO.

7. The struggle between Russia and the West caused friction in the United Nations.
8. The Cold War was in effect by 1950.
9. Korean War was undertaken to prevent further Communist expansion.
10. Russia had relocated industrial and economic centers as a result of war and started eastward development of Soviet Union.
11. The fourth Five-Year Plan was begun in 1945.
12. Thought control of artists and writers was exercized.
13. Soviet Union initiated the Iron Curtain to separate it from the outside world while making changes inside Russia.
14. With Stalin's death in 1953, changes took placed in the Soviet Union.

VII. COEXISTENCE - SIGNIFICANT FACTS

1. There was a struggle for power as Stalin had left no clear cut successor.
2. Attempts were made to improve living conditions and to improve relations with the West.
3. Khrushchev emerged as leader and denounced Stalin's cult of the individual.
4. Russia "softened" in her attitude toward the West. Anti-West propaganda was still carried on.
5. Attempts were made to spread Russian influence in Asia and Africa.
6. Living conditions improved considerably and some decentralization took place in the late fifties.
7. Slower population growth led to improved conditions.
8. More schools and universities were built.
9. The "thaw" led to some relaxation of party "thought control" although there were still limits.
10. Russia, by the 1960's, had made great strides in science and technology.
11. Castro's Cuba gave Russia a base of operations in the Western hemisphere.
12. Confrontations with Russia developed in Viet Nam during the 1960's.
13. Sino-Soviet rift developed in the 1960's.

14. Khrushchev was removed from power in 1964 and replaced by Brezhnev as First Secretary and Kozygin as Premier. Although they promised continuation of peaceful coexistence, indications are that they are following a "harder line" with the West.

DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM AS A WAY OF LIFE. Compare the concepts, practices, and developments of both of these systems.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION. Analyze the importance of geographical influences upon Russian development and the Russian character.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RUSSIA'S PAST IN THE COMMUNIST STATE. Evaluate the significance of a great national pride, love of the mother land, military tradition, isolation, and lack of democratic traditions upon the present state of the Soviet Union.

SOVIET PERSONALITIES AND POLITICS. Study the important figures of the Russian Communist society--past and present and their impace on the world.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET ECONOMY. The problems the Soviets faced since the Revolution of 1917. Evaluate the economic development of the Soviet Union.

THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST IN THE SOVIET UNION. Analyze the reasons for governmental control on the arts and its effect. Read the literature of representative authors.

THE INTERNATIONAL POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION. Study and analyze the actions of Russia during the Soviet period in foreign affairs and the long term effect of such policies.

THE WEST'S RESPONSE TO COMMUNISM. Study and evaluate the role of the West in relation to the Soviet Union and postulate the proper course of action for the West to take in response to Communism.